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A-182 NO.

UNCLASSIFIED HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE SEP 13 11 05 AM 1967 ANALYSIS BRANCH

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : Bangkok, CINCPAC (for POLAD), Danang, Vientiane

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: September 10, 1967

SUBJECT : Message of General Thieu

REF :

Transmitted as an enclosure to this airgram is a translation of a message from General Thieu to "the people, and military, civilian and administrative cadres of all ranks", praising them for their efforts to insure a successful election. The message appeared in the Saigon Daily News of September 9. Thieu notes the good voter turnout, and asserts that the percentage would probably have been even higher if the National Assembly had approved the Directorate proposal to extend the voting hours.

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Enclosure: As stated

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Joan Ingberg DATE Action Taken 12/23/81

XDS [ ] or XDS [ ] EXT. DATE

E.O. 12356 EXEMPTION(S) Date of

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Action assigned to J2TD

9/27/67

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FORM DS-323 4-62

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Drafted by: POL:DFLambertson /bl

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:JACalhoun

Clearances: POL:TJCHeavner TMRecknagel

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"Dear compatriots,
Dear military, civilian and administrative cadres of all ranks,
- Last September 3, 4,877,399 voters out of 5,853,251 registered voters went to the polls in the Presidential and Senatorial elections (83.3 percent).

- In comparison with the election of the Constituent Assembly held Sept. 11 last year there were an additional 550,684 registered voters and an additional 545,579 voters going to the polls.

- Had the Provisional Legislative Assembly approved the proposal of the National Directory to allow the election time to last one or two more hours, the percentage of the voters going to the polls would probably have been higher.

- During the week preceding the election, the VC determinedly increased their terrorism and sabotage activities. There were a total of 327 such cases causing the death of 331 persons. A total of 1,212 persons were wounded and 10 persons reported missing among the military men, government personnel, cadres and civilians.

- On the election day alone the VC carried out 161 more acts of terrorism killing 69 persons and wounding 373 others. Six more were reported missing.

- As a part of their campaign of terror, the VC burned down people's houses, mortared new-life hamlets and refugee centers, assassinated and kidnapped hamlet and village officials and members of various anti-communist associations. A total of 530 civilians including innocent children were their victims.

- But in comparison with the casualties that the enemy suffered during that period and in light of the glorious victory that the people brought to the government in the process of building a democracy, the Communists once more met with complete failure.

- The entire people thoroughly condemned before world opinion the atrocities of the North Vietnamese Communists and their henchmen, the South Vietnamese Liberation Front which one more proved that the war in Vietnam is not a war of liberation as trumpeted by Communist propaganda, but a war of aggression which is supported by international Commun. m. This war has caused suffering to freedom-loving countri[illegible].

- The Communists have said that the people in South Vietnam are moving toward liberation under their leadership in order to be

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free to choose a government of their own. Now, once more their mask has fallen because while the people in South Vietnam were eagerly choosing a genuine national government in freedom and democracy, the Communists were determinedly working to destroy all the elections from the lowest to the highest level.

Dear compatriots,
Dear military, civilian and administrative cadres of all ranks,
- Again, the population has shown its determination to build democracy for the nation by actively participating in the elections in great numbers, the people have defied terrorism and accepted sacrifices to fulfill their duty as mature citizens; again, the population as well as servicemen, and cadres - all of us are determined to create a sharp political weapon to eradicate the cruel Communist aggressors.

- Once again , the Vietnamese people have shown determination to select a democratic regime to insure a better future with Freedom, Justice, Progress and a Just Peace.

Dear compatriots, servicemen and cadres,
- We have the right to be proud before the progressive world and humanity.

- We are very proud of our mission to protect democracy and freedom in this part of the world and we are not ashamed for receiving the numerous sacrifices and assistance from our allied nations.

- On behalf of the Directory and the Government, I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and wholeheartedly hail the efforts of servicemen, cadres and authorities of all branches and levels to bring about such great success to the nation.

- I solemnly bow before the fightingmen, cadres and the people who have made their greatest sacrifice and warmly convey my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment for wounds suffered.

Dear compatriots,
- We have the right to be happy about the result of democracy building. But, in the situation of a war-torn country, before the great sacrifices of our population, servicemen, and cadres to make the success of Sept. 3 possible, I sincerely urge the population, servicemen, cadres and authorities to save those means which have been put aside to celebrate, to be used instead in:

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First: Holding prayer services in each locality, province, district, village and hamlet for the nation and for the people and servicemen who have sacrificed themselves.

Second: Forming local military, civilian and administrative committees to visit and help the widows, orphans and victims undergoing treatment.

Third: Abolishing all plans for organizing colorful entertainment and parties.

Fourth: Proposing to the government t, appropriately reward outstanding persons and help those who were directly hurt during the course of the recent elections.

Thank you.

Nguyen Van Thieu"

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